

International Joint Commission
Canada and United States



Commission mixte internationale
Canada et États-Unis

December 14, 2011

Colonel Samaris
(U.S. Co-Chair)
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
New England District
696 Virginia Road
Concord, MA
USA 01742-2751

Mr. Bill Appleby
(Canadian Co-Chair)
Director, MSC Operations - Atlantic
Environment Canada
MSC Operations - ATL
45 Alderney Drive
Dartmouth, NS B2Y 2N6

Dear Col. Samaris and Mr. Appleby:

After the International Joint Commission's Ottawa semi-annual meeting in October, Commissioners decided to request a meeting with Governor Le Page of Maine to discuss the Alewife issue. He granted us a meeting on December 6. Prior to that meeting, there was also a short meeting with the Attorney General's office of Maine. These meetings were attended by the two lead Commissioners for the St. Croix Rich Moy and Pierre Trépanier, as well as legal advisor of the U.S. Section Susan Daniel and Canadian section IJC advisor Nick Heisler.

The Governor noted that he was willing to consider the issue and take under advisement our recommendation to change the Maine law and implement the Adaptive Management Plan as developed under the International Joint Commission's auspices. He assured the Commissioners attending that he would base his decision on the science of the issue. Attached is our follow up thank you letter to the Governor for your information.

We will continue to follow up both with the Governor's policy advisor as well as the Passamaquoddy to seek a way forward and a solution to this long standing problem.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Moy
Commissioner

Pierre Trépanier
Commissioner

Enclosure: Letter to Governor Le Page

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Governor Paul R. LePage
Office of the Governor
#1 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0001

Dear Governor LePage:

Thank you for taking time to meet with the International Joint Commission on December 6, 2011. We appreciated the frank exchange of views and your willingness to take under advisement the matter of changing Maine law to allow the passage of alewives through the Grand Falls Fishway and to implement the alewife Adaptive Management Plan and to make your decision based on sound science.

It is the International Joint Commission's (IJC) role to prevent potential conflict between the U.S. and Canada along our shared waterway boundary. With this in mind, in 2010 the IJC supported the development of an Adaptive Management Plan (AMP) by local fisheries experts, which included members from Maine, to develop a way forward. The resulting plan would support both the reintroduction of the alewife and at the same time provide safeguards to eliminate the risk for the bass fishery. The Plan foresees that the State of Maine would implement the plan in conjunction with other fishery experts. In this case the State of Maine would need to change its law and allow the gradual introduction of Alewives into the St. Croix through the alewife Adaptive Management Plan.

To support the development and implementation of the AMP, the IJC has funded scientific studies of the bass fishery in Spednic Lake and other studies of the watershed. The IJC would like to work with the State of Maine to move the discussion forward and take initial steps toward the gradual introduction of the alewife. We support the safeguards in the AMP as a necessary security mechanism for those with remaining concerns about the health of the bass fishery. This safety mechanism is supported by all the fishery experts involved in drafting the AMP – including those from Maine.

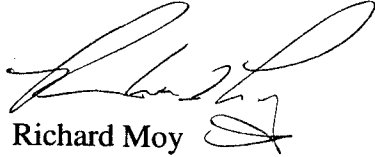
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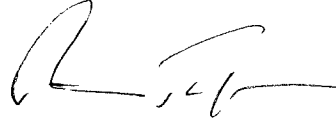
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We regret that one of us, U.S. Commissioner Rich Moy, was unable to participate in the meeting with you, but we hope we will be able to meet you again as we work together to facilitate a solution for the Maine fisherman.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rich Moy', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Richard Moy
Commissioner

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pierre Trépanier', with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Pierre Trépanier
Commissioner